This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 2026-11-17 and available online at https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-23399, and on https://govinfo.gov

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[A2407-014-004-065516, #O2509-014-004-125222]

Draft Environmental Assessment, Public Hearing, and Request for Comment on the Maximum Economic Recovery and Fair Market Value for the Falkirk Mining Company Proposed Federal Coal Lease-By-Application and Mining Plan for NDMT106782389, McLean County, ND

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) announce that a draft environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review for the Falkirk Mining Company's Federal coal lease-by-application (LBA) for Falkirk Mine, serial number NDMT 106782389, and mining plan for the proposed NDMT 106782389. The BLM also announces that a public hearing will be held to receive comments on the Fair Market Value (FMV), Maximum Economic Recovery (MER), and on factors that may affect the FMV and MER determinations of the coal resources contained in the proposed LBA lease tracts. The BLM and OSM take these actions in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended; the Mineral Leasing Act, as amended; and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended.

DATES: The draft EA will be available on [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]. To receive due consideration, written comments on the FMV and MER must be received by the BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office no later than [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

A public hearing will be held on December 16, 2026 from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held at the Underwood City Hall, 88 Lincoln Ave., Underwood, ND 58576. Any updates to the public hearing will be provided through the ePlanning project website and a press release.

The draft EA and documents pertinent to this proposal are available for review on the BLM ePlanning project website at https://eplanning.blm.gov/Project-Home/?id=e52d7cb7-1509-f111-8406-001dd8029ed0

Please submit your comments to this website.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tessa Wallace, BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office, Solid Minerals, 5001 Southgate Dr., Billings, MT 59101; telephone: 406-896-5086; email: tlwallace@blm.gov.

Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Ms. Wallace. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose and need for the BLM's Federal action are to respond to Falkirk Mining Company's emergency LBA to lease Federal coal resources at the Falkirk Mine in North Dakota. The Federal tracts contain approximately 1.89 million tons of minable coal over approximately 208.72 acres, which could be mined through 2034. The purpose of OSM's Federal action is to conduct an analysis of the potential environmental effects of the proposed mining plan for the proposed NDMT 106782389 lease. OSM will use this analysis to inform its recommendation to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, who may approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove the proposed Federal mining plan. Two alternatives are analyzed in draft EA.

Comments on the FMV and MER received from the public will be considered and incorporated as appropriate into the final EA and written report.

The tracts for the proposed NDMT 106782389 lease underlie private surface and are described as follows:

Fifth Principal Meridian, North Dakota

T. 145 N., R. 83 W.,

sec. 32, SW1/4.

T. 144 N., R. 84 W.,

sec. 2, lot 1.

The areas described aggregate 208.72 acres, according to the surveys of the said land, on file with the BLM.

Through this notice, the BLM invites the public to provide comments regarding factors that may affect the determinations of the FMV and MER.

Any proprietary information or data that you submit to the BLM must be marked as confidential and mailed directly to the BLM Montana-Dakotas State Office, Attention: Tessa Wallace (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) to assure the data will be treated in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations governing the confidentiality of such information or data. A copy of the comments submitted by the public on the FMV and MER for the tracts, except those portions identified as proprietary and that meet one of the exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act, will be available for public inspection at the BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. MT), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at

any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, the BLM cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Consultation Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

The BLM and OSM will coordinate within the NEPA process to ensure compliance with applicable procedural requirements under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. 306108) as provided in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The BLM and OSM invite public participation in the section 106 process pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(d) and are providing an opportunity for the public to comment on the identification of historic properties, the assessment of effects, and potential measures to avoid, minimize, or resolve adverse effects. To protect cultural resources, BLM and OSM will not disclose precise site locations or other sensitive information and will manage confidential materials consistent with NHPA section 304 and applicable BLM and OSM policy. Individuals or organizations with a demonstrable interest in historic preservation issues may request consulting party status under 36 CFR 800.3(f). (Authority: 43 CFR 3422.1, 43 CFR 3425.3 and 3425.4)

Joshua F. Alexander,

Deputy State Director,

BLM Montana/Dakotas.

[FR Doc. 2026-23399 Filed: 11/16/2026 8:45 am; Publication Date: 11/17/2026]